

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting Minutes
Natick Town Hall
October 13, 2015
6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Charles M. Hughes, Richard P. Jennett, Jr., Joshua Ostroff, Nicholas S. Mabardy and John Connolly

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Martha White and Executive Assistant Donna Donovan

Executive Session

Mr. Ostroff, seconded by Mr. Hughes, moved to enter into executive session to discuss matters pertaining to collective bargaining and real property. By roll call vote the Board voted to enter into executive session. At 6:10 p.m. the Board entered into executive session after announcing that the meeting would return to open session. The Chair further announced that discussion of collective bargaining and real property in open session would have a detrimental effect on the Board of Selectmen's negotiating position.

The open session was reconvened at 7:05 p.m.

Announcements

1. Mr. Ostroff announced that MassDOT will be holding an information session on October 28th at 6:30 PM in the Edward Dlott Meeting Room at Town Hall on the state's upcoming transportation capital plans.
2. Mr. Ostroff announced that he would be resigning from the Board of Selectmen effective March 29, 2016, which coincides with the annual Town Election. Board members thanked Mr. Ostroff for his time and dedication to the Town.
3. Mr. Connolly gave an update on a neighborhood meeting he organized regarding the Lake Street drainage project.
4. Ms. White advised of a telemarketing scam taking place, where the caller ID system states the call is from the Town of Natick offering to increase credit card limits.
5. Ms. White announced that a major sewer project was beginning on October 13th on West Central Street, and portions of the road would be closed for a minimum of 3-4 days.

What's New

1. Fire Chief Rick White gave an updated on the CPR team stating that there were 12 instructors training high school students through a Metrowest Health Foundation grant. 99% of the high school students are CPR certified to date and the goal is to have the entire student body certified. Chief White also announced an open house taking place on Saturday October 24th to recognize fire prevention day.

Citizen's Concerns

1. David Hall of 5 Pauline Drive expressed concerns with the construction of a storage unit at 3 Pauline Drive, calling attention to drainage concerns. Ms. White stated she would address these concerns with the Building Commissioner.
2. Scott Dixon of 36 Fairview Drive raised concerns with the handicapped parking at the high school, and the condition of the high school field house. Mr. Ostroff recommended he contact the school department since it was concerning school property,
3. Carol Berkowitz of 9 Crescent Street asked about the maintenance of JJ Lane Park, stating that it needed to be cleaned up. Ms. White will follow up with the Recreation and Parks Department.
4. Elaine White of Beverly Road spoke on the poor condition of the East Natick School. Mr. Hughes and Martha White concurred with Ms. White.
5. Brian King of 17 Rockland Street asked that traffic on Rockland Street be addressed.

Appointments with the Board of Selectmen

1. **Citation**
State Representative David Linsky was presented with a Board citation for the MWRA Regional Spirit award.
2. **Public Hearing: Dedication of the Square at Marion Street and Lincoln Place in honor of CPO Eldon Tozer.**
Mr. Mabardy read the hearing notice into the record. The hearing was opened at 7:56 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Mabardy, seconded by Mr. Connolly. Mr. Hughes read Veteran Agent Paul Carew's memo in his absence, recommending approval. The Public hearing was closed on a motion by Mr. Ostroff, seconded by Mr. Jennett and unanimously voted. On a motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Ostroff, the Board unanimously voted to approve the dedication as presented.

3. Natick Center Associates – Proposed Art for the Electrical Boxes on the Common.

Mr. Ostroff recused himself stating that his wife was one of the proposed artists, and left the room. It was noted that the Board had voted to approve the proposal to paint the electrical boxes at a previous meeting and the purpose of tonight's meeting was to allow the Selectmen to see the design prior to the painting. Mr. Ostroff returned to the room following the discussion.

4. Interviews for Appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals

Applicants Michael Hickey and Rob Steckbeck were present. They both addressed questions by Board members regarding their experience and understanding of the role of a ZBA member. Mr. Steckbeck stated that he works with neighbors and developers of the St. Patrick's building project and would recuse himself from any discussions or actions pertaining to this project should it come before the ZBA.

On a motion by Mr. Ostroff, seconded by Mr. Mabardy, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Mr. Hickey as an associate member with term expiring May 30, 2018.

On a motion by Mr. Ostroff, seconded by Mr. Mabardy, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Mr. Steckbeck as an associate member with term expiring May 30, 2016.

Discussion and Decision

1. Consideration of Free Parking for Natick Artist Open Studios October 17th

Free parking is requested between the hours of 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for this event. Mr. Jennett encouraged merchants to park in the parking lots rather than the free metered spaces. Chief Hicks stated that permits are not required in the parking lots on Saturdays and meters and signs will be covered for the requested hours. On a motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Connolly, the Board unanimously voted to approve free parking on October 17th from 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

2. Vote to Accept the Policy and Procedures for Health Insurance Under the Federal Affordable Care Act

Human Resource Director Richard Tranfaglia gave a brief description of the policy and stated that it went into effect on 10/1. The implementation of this policy will allow Natick to meet its obligations under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. On a motion by Mr. Ostroff, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board unanimously voted to accept the policy and procedures for health insurance under the Federal Affordable Care Act.

3. Fall Annual Town Meeting Articles: Articles 17, 20, 22, 25, 26, 28, and 30-35

- Article 20 – Endorse the Board of Health Initiative Regarding Regulations to Reduce the Use of Plastic Bags – On a motion by Mr. Ostroff, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board voted 4-1 to recommend favorable action. Mr. Connolly opposed.
- Article 22 – Hear, Report, Propose Action(s) and Appropriate Funds for Sawin House Study Committee – Ken Soderholm and George Sawin spoke in reference to the article. On a motion by Mr. Ostroff, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board unanimously voted to recommend favorable action.
- Article 35 – Thomas Sawin Homestead Preservation – Randy Johnson, Ken Soderholm, A. Richard Miller and Peter Golden spoke in reference to the article. On a motion by Mr. Ostroff, seconded by Mr. Connolly the board voted 3-2 to recommend no action. Mr. Mabardy and Mr. Jennett opposed.
- Article 34 – Restrict use of Middlesex Path as Dog Park – Ann Karnofsky, A. Richard Miller, Nancy Nottinson, Peter Thompson, Peter Nottinson, Melissa Probst, Cathi Collins, Ashok Ahuja, Randy Johnson, Jim Howe and Kelly McPherson spoke in reference to the article. On a motion by Mr. Ostroff, seconded by Mr. Connolly, the Board unanimously voted to recommend no action.
- Article 25 – Committee Article – On a motion by Mr. Ostroff, seconded by Mr. Mabardy, the board unanimously voted to recommend favorable action.
- Article 26 – Home Rule Petition: Shade Trees on Unaccepted Ways – Speaking to this article, Mr. Ostroff stated that given the concerns about cost and liability, he was asking the Board to table this matter until a future Town Meeting. On a motion by Mr. Ostroff, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board unanimously voted to recommend no action.
- Article 28 – Establish Tax Title Collection Revolving Fund - On a motion by Mr. Ostroff, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board unanimously voted to recommend no action.
- Article 30 – Appropriate Local Options Taxes Toward Economic Development – Ms. White stated that the intent of this article would be incorporated into an the omnibus budget article. On a motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Ostroff, the Board unanimously voted to recommend no action.
- Article 31 – Transfer of Land to the Conservation Commission - On a motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Ostroff, the Board unanimously voted to recommend no action.
- Article 32 – Appoint Tiny House Study Committee – Jay Ball spoke in reference to the article. On a motion by Mr. Mabardy, seconded by Mr. Ostroff, the Board unanimously voted to recommend favorable action.

- Article 33 – Appropriate Funds for Sewage Disposal System for Affordable Home – Randy Johnson spoke in reference to the article. On a motion by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Mabardy, the Board unanimously voted to recommend favorable action if Article 19 does not pass at Town Meeting.

4. Discussion of the Charge and Appointing Authority for the Master Planning Steering Committee

Given the late hour, Mr. Ostroff recommended taking no action; but that he would forward a memorandum to the Planning Board for their consideration in establishing a Master Planning committee.

5. Financial Planning Committee Update

A brief report will be presented at Fall Town Meeting by Mr. Hughes or Ms. Mistrot. Mr. Ostroff stated that a more detailed report would be released in mid-December detailing all matters discussed since Spring of 2015 and identifying which items had board consensus and which items did not.

Mr. Ostroff requested that given his intention to resign in March, that a new selectmen representative be appointed to the Committee so he could step down. On a motion by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Mabardy, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Mr. Jennett to the Financial Planning Committee.

6. Accept the Resignation of Kevin Polansky from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

On a motion by Mr. Ostroff, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board unanimously voted to accept the resignation of Kevin Polansky from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Requested Action

1. On a motion by Mr. Ostroff, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board unanimously voted to approve a request for an exemption from Town By-Laws Ch. 41, S. 4 for the following:
 - Michelle McWhinnie
 - Kasie Williams
 - Sarah Sedman

Town Administrator's Notes

1. Ms. White informed the Board that Donna Donovan and Sue Salamoff were working to re-establish the Kennedy Trust Fund and Walcott Fund Committees by reaching out to Natick Clergy for interest in appointments. Ms. White also stated that Town Meeting can approve

appropriation of funds into the Walcott Fund to bring the account into a positive balance, and that a future Town Meeting article would be proposed.

2. Ms. White informed the Board that the 2nd position in the Town Administrator/Selectmen's office has been filled, and Patricia O'Neill will be starting tomorrow.

Selectmen's Concerns

1. Mr. Jennett referred to residents' letters in the Board's correspondence asking if the concerns were being addressed.
2. Mr. Jennett asked if there was communications between the Mill Creek developers and the administration as to the paving of Lake Street. It is Ms. White's understanding that the developers are paving the street from Rt. 27 to LaGrange Street but will not do any sidewalk paving outside of the work zone area. Mr. Hughes recommended having the developers attend the October 26th meeting for discussion.
3. Mr. Mabardy asked for an update on the removal of the utility poles on Pine Street. Ms. White replied that a work order has been submitted.
4. Mr. Mabardy requested that Ms. Wilson-Martin attend an upcoming meeting to give an update on the electricity aggregation program.
5. Mr. Mabardy requested an update on the East School referring to residents' concerns.
6. Mr. Mabardy spoke to the Fire Chief's retirement in 2017, and suggested changing the procedure for appointment of the Fire Chief by-law by deleting the assessment center process since a strong candidate was already identified during the previous assessment. There was board discussion on the need for a Bylaw change through a Town Meeting article. There was disagreement on the Board about the merits of this change, which the Chair suggested be on the agenda at a later date.
7. Mr. Mabardy asked if the Town has a financial plan. Ms. White replied that we always have a financial plan, and updated numbers will be available in mid-December when the FY17 budget is prepared and presented to the Board at the first meeting in January.
8. Ms. Ostroff asked if there was consideration of a special town meeting discussion to address the zoning by-laws; in discussion Mr. Hughes said that the zoning was not yet ready.

9. Mr. Ostroff had the honor of recently attend the first Praying Indian wedding in 340 years at the Eliot Church.
10. Mr. Ostroff was invited to speak to the Natick Women's Club.
11. Mr. Ostroff recommended that other Board members attend the upcoming Massachusetts Municipal Association's annual meeting.
12. Mr. Ostroff will be resigning as the Board's representative to the Metrowest Regional Collaborative and asked that the appointment of a new Board member be placed on the next meeting agenda.
13. Mr. Ostroff was asked to investigate a rush hour exclusion on Border Road and Jennings Road because it was being used as a cut through, and had contacted the Police Chief on this matter.
14. Mr. Ostroff addressed the Town Administrator's evaluation. On Mr. Hughes's instructions it will be on the October 26th agenda.
15. Mr. Connolly requested that the Lake Street residents be heard at the October 26th meeting and that it be scheduled earlier on in the meeting. Mr. Connolly also spoke of the neighborhood meeting some of the Board members recently attended.

On a motion by Mr. Ostroff, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 11:45 p.m.



Nicholas S. Mabardy, Clerk

A list of all documents used at this Board of Selectmen meeting are available at:

<http://naticktown.novusagenda.com/AGENDAPUBLIC/MeetingView.aspx?MeetingID=191&MinutesMeetingID=29&doctype=Agenda>